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MESSAGE:

Dear Examiner Sisson,

As per my message on your voicemail, here is the Interview Agenda for April 10, 2002 at 3:00 p.m. We intend to send proposed changes via facsimile on Monday, April 8th.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

PARSONS BEHLE & LATIMER

Alison B. Mohr

INTERVIEW AGENDA

Examiner Sisson:

We appreciate your willingness to hold an interview on Wednesday, April 10, 2002 at 3:00 p.m. along with Examiner Tung, as appropriate. The interview agenda is as follows:

1. Point of Novelty

Applicant wishes to explain and emphasize that a point of novelty of the invention is the use of a detectable microparticle and/or a detectable moiety for signal amplification. Although, a target has been hybridized, the methods are directed to detection using a microparticle and/or detectable moiety. Hybridization is not the primary purpose of the invention, it is signal amplification.

2. Alternative Claiming Format

We would like to provide you with alternative claims that we feel define the point of novelty, more particularly. For example, the new claims recite signal amplification by the use of a microparticle and/or detectable moiety.

3. Enablement

We want to discuss pages 6-14 and 23-24 of the specification which illustrate the use of a microparticle and/or detectable moiety. Applicant does not intend to focus on hybridization and wishes to focus on the microparticle aspect of the invention.

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CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

[cl001] A method for amplifying a detectable signal, the method comprising:
a) contacting a target with a receptor comprising one or more sites capable of binding a binding ligand, said receptor being complexed to at least one microparticle; and
b) detecting the presence of said microparticle.

[cl002] The method of claim 1 wherein said receptor is bound to a target and said target is hybridized to a solid support comprising nucleic acid probes.

[cl003] The method of claim 1, wherein said microparticle is used to amplify signals from an array.

[cl004] The method of claim 1, wherein said binding ligand comprises biotin, said receptor comprises streptavidin, and said microparticle is fluorescent.

[cl005] A method for amplifying a signal, the method comprising:
a) contacting a target with a first receptor, wherein said target compries a first binding ligand and said first receptor is capable of binding to said first binding ligand;
b) complexing said first receptor with an anti-receptor, said anti-receptor being conjugated to a microparticle, said anti-receptor comprising a plurality of second binding ligands;
c) complexing said anti-receptor with a plurality of second receptors, each of said second receptors comprising a first detectable moiety; and
d) detecting the presence of said detectable moiety.

[cl006] The method of claim 5 wherein said microparticle is detectable and further comprising detecting the presence of said microparticle.

[cl007] The method of claim 5 wherein said first receptor complexes with said anti-receptor via a direct receptor-anti-receptor interaction.

[cl008] The method of claim 5 wherein said first receptor complexes with said anti-receptor via said second binding ligands.

[cl009] The method of claim 5 wherein said anti-receptor complexes with said second receptor via a direct receptor-anti-receptor interaction.

[cl010] The method of claim 5 wherein said anti-receptor complexes with said second receptor via said second binding ligands.

[cl011] The method of claim 5 wherein said first and second binding ligands are the same and said first and second receptors are the same.

[cl012] The method of claim 11 wherein said microparticle is detectable.

[cl013] The method of claim 12 wherein said microparticle is flourescently dyed.

[cl014] The method of claim 5 wherein said detectable moiety is phycoerythrin.

[cl015] The method of claim 5 wherein said first receptor comprises a second detectable moiety.

[cl016] The method of claim 15 wherein said first and second detectable moieties are detected using the same detection method.

[cl017] The method of claim 15 wherein said first and second detectable moieties are each detected using different detection methods.

[cl018] The method of claim 15 wherein said microparticle, said first detectable moiety and said second detectable moiety are detected using the same detection method.

[cl019] The method of claim 15 wherein said microparticle, said first detectable moiety and said second detectable moiety are detected using a different detection method.

[cl020] The method of claim 5 wherein said anti-receptor is complexed to said first receptor via a direct anti-receptor-receptor interaction.

[cl021] The method of claim 5 wherein said anti-receptor is complexed to said first receptor via said second binding ligands.

[cl022] The method of claim 5 wherein said anti-receptor is complexed to said second receptor via a direct anti-receptor-receptor interaction.

[cl023] The method of claim 5 wherein said anti-receptor is complexed to said second receptor via said second binding ligands.

[cl024] A method for amplifying a detectable signal, the method comprising:

a) contacting a target with a receptor to form a complex, said receptor comprising a detectable moiety and a binding site capable of binding a binding ligand;

b) contacting said complex with a microparticle comprising at least one anti-receptor capable of binding to said receptor; and

c) detecting the presence of said detectable moiety.

[cl025] The method of claim 24 wherein said microparticle is detectable and further comprising detecting said microparticle.

[cl026] A method for amplifying a detectable signal, the method comprising;

a) contacting a target with a first receptor to form a first complex;

b) contacting said first complex with a microparticle comprising a binding site for said first receptor and at least one binding site for a second receptor to form a second complex;

c) contacting said second complex with a second receptor comprising a detectable moiety; and

d) detecting said detectable moiety.

[cl027] A method for amplifying a detectable signal, the method comprising;

a) contacting a target with a first receptor to form a first complex, said first receptor comprising a first detectable moiety;

b) contacting said first complex with a microparticle comprising a binding site for said first receptor and at least one binding site for a second receptor to form a second complex;

c) contacting said second complex with a second receptor comprising a second detectable moiety; and

d) detecting at least one of said detectable moieties.

[cl028] The method of claim 27 wherein said first and second detectable moieties are detected using the same detection method.

[cl029] The method of claim 27 wherein said first and second detectable moieties are detected using the same detection method.

[cl030] The method of claim 27 wherein said microparticle is detectable.

[cl031] The method of claim 30 wherein said microparticle, said first detectable moiety and said second detectable moiety are detected using the same detection method.

[cl032] The method of claim 30 wherein said microparticle, said first detectable moiety and said second detectable moiety are detected using different detection methods.

[cl033] A method for amplifying a detectable signal, the method comprising contacting a target with a receptor comprising one or more sites capable of binding a binding ligand, the improvement comprising:

a) complexing said receptor to a plurality of microparticles; and

b) detecting the presence of said microparticles.

[cl034] A method for amplifying a detectable signal, the method comprising:

a) complexing a receptor to at least one microparticle; and

b) detecting the presence of said microparticle.